



## Carson City School District

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May 25, 2017

Lee Plemel, Community Development Director  
Carson City Planning Division  
108 E. Proctor Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

**Re: Carson City Growth Management Commission Annual Meeting**

Dear Mr. Plemel,

The Carson City School District appreciates the opportunity to provide concerns regarding the impact of population growth on Carson City's schools. While, of course, we are excited that more people are deciding to make Carson City their home, due to programmatic and funding changes at the state and local level, capacity is a real issue at all of our schools.

1. *Does your department or agency have any extraordinary service capacity issues that would be negatively impacted by residential growth in 2017-18? If so, identify the issues.*

As previously discussed in varied City and District meetings over the past two years, the School District has great concerns about service capacity, which continues to grow as the City grows. We have used, and will continue to use, every square foot of our facilities to absorb all of Carson City's students, but it has forced us to use space in unconventional and unintended ways. All of our available capital funding resources have been approved by the Board of Trustees to address our immediate needs over the next 4-5 years. As more students attend our schools our goal is to continue to provide our students safe, comfortable, efficient and attractive facilities. The pressure is felt in all of our schools and even though we are discussing rezoning to help equalize crowding, it can only help so much when nearly all of the schools are at capacity.

2. *Do you recommend limiting the number of residential building permits (new construction) that will be made available for the 2018 calendar year to address these issues? If so, what limit, and how will this limit on residential growth help resolve your service capacity problem?*

The Carson City School District does recommend a limit on residential building permits and suggests (if possible) spreading those permits throughout the city to reduce growth impact in just one particular attendance zone. A concentrated growth spike in one zone would have a significant impact upon our schools and educational programs. We do not have a recommendation for what represents the optimum number of residential permits,

but if spreading them equally across the city could occur, it would allow us to better absorb new student enrollment and serve the students and families of Carson City.

3. *What is needed by your department or agency to solve any service capacity issues identified above?*

The Carson City School District is using all of its available capital funding resources over the next five years to address building capacity due to growth. However, the reality is that Carson City is quickly going to need a new elementary school. Throughout our latest round of Facilities Master Planning Committee meetings, another round of school bond funding will likely be used to fund this project. Unfortunately, due to rapidly escalating construction costs and expected interest rate increases, the Carson City School District will not have enough bonding capacity to cover the costs of purchasing land and constructing a new school. The Carson City School District has informed the Planning Division staff in a letter dated March 23, 2017 that we believe developers of the Lompa Ranch should be required, as a Condition of Development, to donate the 10-acre parcel set aside for a new school to the District. We believe any future developments that could have a significant impact on student enrollment be required to donate land as a Condition of Development.

Again, Mr. Plemel, thank you to you and all involved in assuring Carson City's growth is manageable and sustainable.

Sincerely,



Richard Stokes  
Superintendent